

For The Ladies

THE FASHIONS OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Oct. 25.—Never has a season of fashion been so barren of novelties and beauties as this. From Paris comes the report that there is nothing new, that the dressmakers are at their wits' end for fresh ideas, the modistes without inspiration. Perhaps the hot Parisian summer, maybe the exposition, is to blame, but whatever is the cause, chaos reigns in the realms of the mode. We have no system, no patterns to guide us any longer in our choice of hats or our selection of gowns. Wear what you please, for what you please is as good fashion as anything else, says the cloakmaker, tailor, furrier, couturiere and milliner. Wear green or brown, or yellow; cut your skirt with a train or without, gather and pleat it at the waist, or let it fit the hips as close as the bark fits a tree; hang directoire tails to your coat and waist, or chop off both right under the arms—confusion prevails and bad taste is given.

The sight of the show windows and counters piled with new laces and brocades is cause for tears. The worst colors are cast together in the most ungraceful and inappropriate designs. One gorgeous robin's egg blue satin bears huge bouquets of mistletoe, brocade in gold thread, while nobby-looking little nosegays of reddish purple violets are tossed here and there on the green satin spaces. A pink satin is figured over in a design that resembles an endless chain of mountain peaks, on which snowflakes as big and as round as quinine pills are falling.

The prospect is no more pleasing at the counter where lace robes are displayed, for into the mesh of the lace large, irregularly shaped pieces of painted panne or silk muslin are let. Not satisfied with so much decoration, the ill-advised manufacturers introduce on the surface of the panne or muslin squares ridiculous roses and tulips and lilacs and clusters of wistaria made of puffed tulle or a variety of contrasting tints. These tulle flowers, that resemble nothing so much as raw, colored mercuric, have stalks and leaves of gold braid, and three or four inches of tinsel tissue glitter at the foot of the lace robe.

REALLY PRETTY FROCKS.

It is childish and garish in appearance, so much so, indeed, that it is a positive relief to turn to the conservative gowns of simple goods, which, while showing no startling features, display both grace and taste. Such a gown, or gowns, rather, are the group of two evening frocks in the double-column sketch. These are especially designed for the fresh and youthful element in society, for the buds after the debutante dance is over. The one to the left is a moss rose pink taffeta brillante.

The body is quaintly shirred all about, and the threads of the shirring are obscured by bands of baby velvet ribbon, in color a green, that matches very fresh spring woodland moss. The shirring and the stripes of green velvet ribbon continue down upon the skirt to form a long, pointed apron effect. The edges of this apron are allover with chiffon frills of opalescent hue, changing through pink to white and tender green. A deep frill of the chiffon borders the skirt all around.

Not a bit less pleasing in the companion gown of pale yellow Peking crepe, decked with narrow bands of mink's fur. A buckle of slagreen gilt and pale blue sapphires holds points of the short zouave jackets together over the bust, and below the furred edges of the zouaves falls a vest of pale blue liberty tissue, spotted yellow. A blue silk dancing petticoat is worn under the skirt of yellow crepe.

SMART AND SIMPLE GOWNS.

Hardly a word of anything but praise should accompany the two discreet walking gowns that illustrate the best type of outdoor suit now being made for adults and juveniles. The young girl's dress is a wire haired tweed in a warm shade of red, and stroked irregularly with fine, close set black lines. A band of solid red ladies' cloth borders the skirt, collar and yoke of waist and forms the belt; and this is sensibly toned down by applications of narrow black soutache.

The costume for the older woman is a Wotau blue homespun of delightfully soft quality, the coat and skirt edged with smooth, lighter cloth and braided in black, while the lower half of the body and top of the skirt is arranged in blue silk that matches the cloth edges.

Some very interesting striped cashmeres have been brought out this season. The stripes run the length of the goods, are half an inch wide and alternate in black and white, black brown and yellow, red and black, etc. They are extensively used in the makeup of smart house skirts, the tops of which have the lighter stripes tucked out. This leaves the lower half of such a skirt very full and the stripes conspicuous. A fancy shirt waist and a narrow, flexible gold belt completes quite an ideal morning dress.

LEATHER AND TWILLED RIBBON BELTS.

Apologies of belts, we are in danger of doing the flexible gold ribbon to death with overmuch patronage. Black satin girdles braided in gold are also pretty, but rapidly hastening to destruction through too great popularity. A group of really smart belts accompanies the text, and shows how leather and twilled ribbon are most tastefully used. The belt of black satin sprinkled with tiny steel beads and clasped in front by a handsome strass buckle is carefully shaped to fit the waist, as a collar band is cut and skillfully adjusted to the neck. This is a French invention.

The leather girdle is a straight strap of white calf's hide, with the fine, bleached hair clinging to the skin. This pliant hide is taken from the body of a stillborn calf, and is the only sort of white belt that does not soil, since the fine, close-lying hair accepts little grease or dust, and that which it does take can easily be wiped off with a cloth.

The third strap is of white silk, diagonally striped with a black velvet line, and, clasped with a gold disk buckle on white, three eaglets are outlined in brilliant. Nearly all the good



GOWN OF CLOTH AND BROADTAIL—TRIMMINGS OF BLACK PANNE VELVET



GOWN OF GRAY CLOTH TUCKED AND FINISHED WITH HIGH COLLAR AND GIRDLE OF BROADTAIL

WINTER SKIRTS.

The prevailing mode of finishing the back of skirts at present indications will be in an inverted box pleat. The box pleat and double and triple box pleats had a short career of usefulness and popular favor, and the more graceful in-turning pleats are again the smart thing. As a rule, these pleats are stitched flat to the gown for a few inches below the waist and allowed to flare below, giving almost the effect of the habit back at the top. Of course

GOWN FOR A YOUNG GIRL. DOTTED CHALLIE WITH A CREAM GROUND, TRIMMED WITH MOUSSELINE AND BLACK RIBBON VELVET.



A GRACEFUL AFTERNOON GOWN OF MAUVE PANNE VELVET AND HEAVY LACE—FULL GATHERED SLEEVES OF CHIFFON AND LACE CUFFS.

SUBSTITUTE FOR CREAM.

Boil three-fourths of a pint of new milk; put a level teaspoonful of flour into a cup with the yolk of an egg. Mix well together, adding a little sugar. When the milk boils draw it back from the fire, and as soon as it has cooled a very little pour the boiling milk on it, stirring briskly, so that it may not be lumpy. Pour back into the saucepan and heat over the fire, stirring one way, till the egg thickens. It must not boil, or it is spoiled. When cold, it is ready for use.

many of the gowns with box-pleated skirts will still be worn, and some new ones are being made that way.

Many devices are seen to give the skirt the desired flare around the foot, and numerous ruffles on the underskirt are necessary. These and the cleverly constructed bustles and little hair-stuffed pads that the dressmakers insert in the skirts of thin women give the slightest figure the correct shape. Small chance remains for a woman who is careless and clever to look plain with the present style of dress.—Harper's Bazar.

HALF MOURNING COSTUME.

One of the prettiest of half mourning gowns is made of finest black face cloth. The skirt has two bias bands two inches deep of black glace silk, piped with white around the hem, the lower one outlining it. A fitting vest of white silk, with white chiffon frilled jabot, sets off a very chic bolero, the edge of which, likewise the white silk revers, is skirted with a three-quarter inch band of white silk crossed in lattice design with black chenille. The collar, coming high at the back, is of black silk, piped with white, and has two white silk buttons crossed with chenille on either side, and similar to the other three which adorn the front. As a finish at the back are double loops and knots, two coming above and two longer ones below the waist, while the picturesque semi-bell sleeves are cut up at the back sleeve, finished with an inch band of silk and Garibaldi undersleeve of black net. Such a dress could be quite inexpensively carried out.

CORK FLOORING.

A product called "cork tiling," according to the Scientific American, has recently been placed upon the market, and is giving excellent satisfaction as flooring. Besides being noiseless, waterproof, warm and germproof, it is capable of withstanding severe usage. By varying the degree of compression and modifying the manufacturing process slightly, sheets of cork different in color and density are obtained, which, when sawed and finished in the form of panels, can be placed for wainscoting alone, or in connection with cork tile floors.

FOR SERVING CORN.

New and ingenious ideas for the refinements of table service are being continually introduced. Among the season's novelties are silver holders for corn served on the ear. These consist of two rings connected by a slender bar slide that can be extended or contracted according to the length of the cob. The rings slip over either end of the ear, obviating the necessity of soiling the fingers in holding it.

Small crescent-shaped plates for the salad and delicate linen, silver knives and forks are also frequently placed beside the plate at a formal dinner or luncheon.



SIMPLE MATINEE—CREAM BATISTE OVER BLUE SILK TRIMMED WITH LACE



HOUSE GOWN OF SOFT INDIA SILK THE ENTIRE DRESS AND FLOUNCES OF SOFT CREAMY LACE



GOWN OF NAVY BLUE CLOTH WITH VEST OF BLACK SATIN

LIGHT PARTY FROCKS.

Light party frocks, as tulle, gaudie, silk mull, may have their year renewed by careful brushing, particularly in the frills and puckers, spraying with dissolved gum and pressing with moderately hot irons. For dark thin frocks or black lace use, in place of the gum, stale beer. Dusty, raw black lace may be dipped in it, laid flat and pulled until almost dry. Press with warm, not hot irons, and hang air for twelve hours. The beer restores the color and gives just the right gloss for lace. Silk may be spotted with it, but should be sponged afterward with clear water, and smoothed by rolling up when almost dry in place of ironing. Either undiluted beer pressing with irons makes it hard and papery.

HOT PLATES.

When necessary to keep a meal for a belated comer, do not put the plate into the oven, discoloring the china, and crying the food. Instead, the plate over a basin of hot water, covering the same with a second plate that will just fit over the edge of the plate. This keeps the food hot without drying or injuring the plate.

WHEN SWEEPING.

When sweeping a room always toward the fireplace, otherwise the draft from the chimney draws the dust in that direction and scatters it all the room.

For some years after my marriage I lived at Old Harbor, a small place about twenty miles from Kingston. One day, when a visit to my Kingston dressmaker was a necessity, I ordered a young negro boy to get upon the rumble and drive me to the town.

I paid a visit to the dressmaker, and, receiving my frock, a light summer thing, from her, I placed it in the box beneath the buggy seat and drove to my sister's, where I went in to escape the heated part of the day, giving my boy six pence and bidding him to see the sights and return at 4 o'clock.

He turned up punctually with the grin still in place, and in due time we reached Old Harbor once more.

When I went to take out my crispy muslin I found to my consternation it was a wet, soppy mass! No rain had fallen, and even then—

I turned to the boy: "Solomon, what in the world does this mean? How"—but the look of utter helpless amazement on his face stopped me.

"Lor, missis, it am queer, but not so queer as what done happen to me. Me bought a quattig (1½d) worth of dat pretty t'ing dey calls 'ice' to bring home an' show ma sister, an' I put him in dar wid your dress to keep him safe—an' now him gone for sure—an' how him get out I dunno wid you sittin' on him all de time."—Harper's Magazine.

WINE OR INK STAINS.

When wine or ink is spilled, never try to sop it up with a dry cloth; use one wrung out hard instead. A dry cloth will smear and spread it, the wet one soak it up. Boiling water poured through takes fresh ink stains out of cloth. From paper they are best dissolved with alcohol, laying the stained leaf over many thickness of blotting paper. Alcohol further takes ink stains off the fingers, also berry stains and those made by peeling fruit in quantity. Vinegar has much the same property. So has the peel of a sour apple or the half of a green tomato.

POLISH FOR BROWN SHOES.

Lemon juice and milk well rubbed in make an excellent polish for brown shoes. Afterward rub with a soft duster. Stains may be removed by rubbing with methylated spirit. Polish afterward either with the lemon juice and milk or with the following cream: One ounce of muriatic acid, half an ounce of alum, half an ounce of spirits of lavender, half an ounce of gum arabic and half an ounce of skim milk.

NEGLIGEE JACKET OF BLACK AND WHITE SILK TRIMMED WITH FLOUNCES OF CHIFFON EDGED WITH CLUNY LACE

